

lines 60-65. Blaeser et al. describe a portion of guide lumen 44d as being movably positioned within a distal portion of inflation lumen 30d of shaft 14d. Column 11, lines 5-9; Figure 16. Blaeser et al. further discuss a seal member 110 sealingly connected to prevent fluid from exiting the core. Column 11, lines 24-26.

Claim 1, as last amended, recites a catheter having a first tube, a second tube, and a bonding region bonding the second tube outside wall surface to the first tube outside wall surface. Claim 27, as last amended, recites a catheter shaft having a first tube, a second tube, and a bonding region bonding the second tube outside wall surface to the first tube outside wall surface. Claim 47, as last amended, recites a catheter shaft having a first tube, a second tube, and a bonding region including bonding between the first tube outside surface and the second tube outside surface.

Applicants respectfully submit that Blaeser et al. disclose a seal allowing a tube to move within the seal, rather than a bond. Applicants respectfully submit that Blaeser et al. do not anticipate the bond recited in claims 1, 27 and 46. Applicants respectfully submit that the recited invention allows, in one of many illustrative advantages, the bonding of a flexible outer tube to a lubricious inner tube, where the two tubes may be difficult to bond directly to one another.

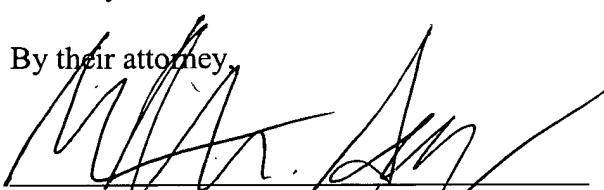
Claims 8, 9, 11, 12, 17-26, 34, 36, 37, 42-46 and 48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Blaeser et al. in view of Roychowdhury (U.S. Patent No. 5,587,125). The aforementioned claims contain the limitations of their respective independent claims 1, 27 and 46. For the reasons discussed above with respect to the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection, Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are patentable over Blaeser et al. in view of Roychowdhury.

Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested. It is respectfully submitted that the claims are now in condition for allowance, issuance of a Notice of Allowance in due course is requested. If a telephone conference might be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney at (612) 677-9050.

Respectfully submitted,

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By their attorney,


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Date: Dec. 14, 2000